

Tabbaa urges Arab investments

KUWAIT (Petra) — Ministry of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa has called on Arab investors to take advantage of the encouraging investment opportunities in Jordan noting that Jordanian laws do not differentiate between a Jordanian and any Arab citizen, a report in the Kuwaiti Arabic daily Al Watan said Tuesday. The paper quoted Tabbaa as saying that Arab investors could set up their own businesses in Jordan. He noted that the restoration of peace in the Gulf region would create greater demand for Jordanian products in Iraqi markets. Tabbaa voiced optimism that the economic situation would improve in Jordan as a result of the recent political developments in the region and the latest Jordanian economic measures. The paper quoted Tabbaa as saying: "After the cessation of the Iran-Iraq war and the adoption of new economic measures, as well as after rearranging our Jordanian house, we now feel that Jordan will witness a new economic movement."

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AROUND THE WORLD...

U.S. accuses Soviets of Afghan breach

WASHINGTON (R) — The State department Tuesday accused the Soviet Union of breaching Geneva peace accords in Afghanistan by sending bombers from Soviet territory to hit targets near Kunduz. "It is clear that Soviet bombers have been involved.... in our view, this is a violation of the Geneva accords," State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said at a news briefing. "We have heard reports that the fighting is continuous and that Kunduz is under aerial bombardment," Oakley said. "Some, but not all, (the bombers) have come from airfields within the Soviet Union. In our view, this is a violation," she said. In Moscow, the official Soviet news agency TASS made no immediate comment on the State Department allegations, although earlier Tuesday it reported that the situation was returning to normal in the province of Kunduz.

Iraq briefs Kuwait, S. Arabia

BAHRAIN (R) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadhan, briefing Arab Gulf leaders on Iran-Iraq peace talks in Geneva, flew to Saudi Arabia Tuesday, the Saudi Press Agency reported. Ramadhan, who arrived from Kuwait at Jeddah, delivered a message to King Fahd from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the agency said. The agency gave no details. Ramadhan earlier Tuesday delivered a message to the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, from President Hussein. The Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) said the letter dealt with recent developments in the region and the Geneva peace talks.

Khaddam holds talks with Rassi

DAMASCUS (R) — Lebanese Interior Minister Abdallah Al Rassi met Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam Tuesday amid efforts to hold a new presidential election in Lebanon, diplomats said. They said Syria was still determined to see a smooth transition of power to President Amin Gemayel's successor. Efforts were being intensified to ensure security for a new election and a date might be set next week, the diplomats said.

Walesa to meet government minister

GDANSK, Poland (R) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa will hold talks Wednesday with Polish Interior Minister Czeslaw Kiszczak, a senior Solidarity adviser said Tuesday. Tadeusz Mazowiecki told reporters Walesa would meet Kiszczak and a representative of the Roman Catholic Church in Warsaw (see page 8)

Greece expects Turkish gesture

NICOSIA (AP) — Greek Foreign Minister Carolas Papoulias said Tuesday he expects Turkey to make a goodwill gesture towards reuniting Cyprus by withdrawing troops from the north of the island. Papoulias, in Cyprus for two days of talks with government officials and opposition leaders, also said that Greece was prepared to help Cyprus join the European Economic Community (EEC). "Any positive progress in Greek-Turkish relations goes through Cyprus," he told a news conference. "An expression of goodwill must come from Turkey, especially the withdrawal of the Turkish forces of occupation," he said.

Casualty toll reaches 90 in Iran floods

NICOSIA (AP) — The casualty toll from last week's flooding in the mountains east of Tehran has reached 90, Tehran Radio reported Tuesday. The unidentified head of the Red Crescent in the region around the mountain town of Damavand, 50 kilometres east of Tehran, was quoted as saying 90 people were either killed, wounded or missing.

Church envoy meets Sheikh Khaled

BEIRUT (AP) — Church of England Bishop John Brown met with Grand Mufti Sheikh Hassan Khaled, spiritual leader of Lebanon's Sunni Muslims, Tuesday in his effort to free foreign hostages held by extremists. The Right Rev. John Brown, bishop of the Gulf and Cyprus, was scheduled to leave Lebanon late Tuesday after spending two days in Lebanon to seek word on the fate of four missing Iranians. He was in Tehran earlier. Brown, planning to travel to London via Cyprus, said he would not comment on any results until he is briefed by Canterbury Robert Runcie.

Turkey sends message to Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Nuzhet Kandemir left Tuesday after delivering a message on bilateral relations to Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadhan, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. It said the message was from Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal.

Irqi minister heads for France

BAGHDAD (R) — Saddam Hamadi, Iraq's minister of state for foreign affairs, left Tuesday for Paris on his first visit to a Western permanent member of the U.N. Security Council since his appointment last month. He told the Iraqi News Agency he would discuss with the French officials "bilateral developing relations and issues of mutual interest."

U.S., Iran exchanged 15 secret messages

NEW YORK (AP) — The United States and Iran exchanged more than 15 secret messages last spring regarding the reestablishment of relations and other subjects, according to a report being published this week. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani, interviewed by the New Yorker magazine in mid-June, said the messages were exchanged over the previous two months. "It is our understanding that the United States wants to keep them confidential, and we honour that," Larijani said of the messages between the two countries. However, he added, "the messages deal with potential for relations and with the whole region."

Bomb on Khyber mail train kills three

ISLAMABAD (R) — A bomb blast in the luggage van of the Khyber mail train killed three Pakistanis and injured 13 near Islamabad Tuesday, a local official said. More than 250 people have been killed in the last 18 months in bomb attacks blamed by Pakistani officials on secret agents of the Soviet-backed Afghan government.

Japan's Gulf beacon system goes ahead

ABU DHABI (AP) — Japan will go ahead with its scheme to install a navigation aid system along the Gulf coast despite the Gulf war ceasefire, a Japanese diplomat said Tuesday. "The system will still be useful as a non-military means to facilitate safe navigation for merchant vessels in the Gulf against not only mines, but also natural hazards," said Kunio Kataura, the Japanese ambassador to the United Arab Emirates. The \$10 million scheme proposed and financed by Japan, which imports 51.7 per cent of its oil from the region, involves building 24 advanced British-made coastal radar beacons to help ships determine their locations.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جordan Times يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأي

'Thousands of Sudanese dying'

LONDON (R) — Thousands of women and children are dying of starvation in Sudan and British relief workers said Tuesday they fear the toll will rise as more refugees flee the civil war. The warning from Oxfam came as the governor of the province of Equatoria, Morris Lawya, said tens of thousands of people are fleeing floods in south Sudan. An Oxfam spokeswoman said as many as 250 people were dying daily from hunger and disease. "It is an extremely serious situation. People are dying by the hundreds, it has been going on for many months. More resources are needed," she said. Oxfam and other relief agencies fear thousands more will starve to death as they take to the roads to escape the five-year-old war. Some of the £4 million (\$6.76 million) raised by British groups to aid victims of the summer's floods in Sudan will now be used for refugees from the south. Oxfam said. The war and a disruption of agriculture have forced at least three million southerners — half the estimated population — to flee to other parts of Sudan or to Ethiopia.



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday visits the Third Royal Armoured Division (Petra photo)

King inspects army training, receives batch of graduates

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday watched military exercises performed by units of the Third Royal Armoured Division and was briefed on the exercises and training programs by field commanders.

The exercises included target shooting with live ammunition and field exercises in which helicopters and fighter aircraft took part.

The King inspected troop positions and expressed appreciation for the efforts exerted in the exercises. He urged the troops to "pursue endeavours in training so that the Armed Forces can serve as a strong shield protecting the Arab Nation."

Attending the exercises with the King were Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal

Shurif Zaid Ibn Shaker, senior officers, delegations from Arab countries and teachers and students from Jordanian universities.

King Hussein also met Tuesday with the second batch of graduates from the Royal War College and exchanged views with them on a number of issues and wished them success in their career.

The graduates had lunch with the King. Prime Minister and Defence Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Minister Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Field Marshal Sharif Zaid, Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Talib, the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force and the commander of the Royal War College attended the meeting and lunch.

UAE daily lauds Jordan's step as boost to Palestinian cause

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative links with the Israeli-occupied West Bank was aimed at supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people, the Al Ittihad daily of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) said Tuesday.

The newspaper expressed hope that Jordanian-Palestinian meetings would continue and said that the Palestinian cause would remain the most important national issue for Jordan and the rest of the Arab World.

The independent newsletter, which reports on Arab opinion around the Middle East, said:

"No final decision has yet been taken on whether the projected team will be a provisional government or a government-in-exile, but there are indications that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will opt for the provisional formula."

The publication named the 11 members to work with Arafat as George Habash, Navef Hawatreh, Hanna Siniora, Fayed Abu Rahme, Elias Freij, Edward Said, Ibrahim Abu Loghod, Walid Khalidi, Zehdi Terzi, Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh and Khaled Al Hassan.

It said Hassan would replace Farouq Kaddoumi, the UAE's present foreign relations chief.

Arab daily Al Qabas newspaper in an interview published Monday that the PLO would make the announcement in September, when the Palestine National Council (PNC) meets in Algiers.

Arab world said: "The government can be proclaimed any time now, but no official announcement will be made by PLO leader Yasir Arafat until after a PLO delegation has visited the United Nations and met U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to hand him copies of the Palestinian constitution and declaration of independence and his approval."

The weekly News Digest said the declaration could also include a recognition of the existence of Israel.

Israel objected Tuesday to Perez de Cuellar's reference to the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

(Continued on page 3)

Commandos, Israeli forces clash in S. Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli troops and allied Lebanese militiamen clashed with four Palestinian commandos who tried to cross the border into Israel Tuesday, security sources said.

The sources told Reuters two fighters were seized by militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA), one fled injured and one was unaccounted for.

The sources said the two sides clashed at dawn at the village of Halta inside Israel's self-declared South Lebanon "security zone" and four kilometres from the border.

The arrested fighters said they were members of the Palestinian

Popular Struggle Front (PSF) and had travelled from the Bekaa Valley to the zone to carry out an attack inside Israel, one source said.

They said the fighters were armed with machineguns, rocket-propelled and hand grenades, and pistols fitted with silencers.

In Tel Aviv, the Israeli army said two of the fighters involved in the clash were captured.

The carbomb was the 12th in Lebanon this year. By

Police count, 103 people were killed and 371 wounded in the earlier bombings.

The highway where the car-

bomb exploded Tuesday links the Bekaa Valley with Beirut and is the main route used by the Syrian army to supply its forces in west

Beirut.

Police said Syrian troops sealed off the blast site and only allowed rescue teams and fire fighters to pass.

As with the earlier bombings, there was no responsibility claim for Tuesday's explosion.

The latest attack came as Syria renewed discussions with Lebanese officials and the United States to ensure a smooth presidential election in Lebanon.

Lebanon failed to elect a new head of state Aug. 18 to succeed President Amin Gemayel whose six-year term ends on Sept. 23. The election was adjourned indefinitely.

(Continued on page 3)

Subroto: Gulf peace will boost OPEC

NICOSIA (AP) — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Secretary-General Subroto said Tuesday that ending the Iran-Iraq war would strengthen the oil group, but he gave no clue whether Iran had agreed to let its foes have oil production quotas equal to its own.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, said Subroto, Indonesia's former energy minister, made the comments after a meeting with President Ali Khamenei in Tehran.

Subroto arrived Monday from Kuwait seeking to persuade Iran to agree to allow Iraq an OPEC quota of at least 2.39 million barrels a day.

Iraq has refused to accept a quota of 1.5 million barrels a day, about half its current output, and insists on parity with Iran.

The deadlock, with Iraq pumping an estimated 2.5 million barrels

rels a day to boost its revenues and repair its war-damaged economy, has worsened the problem of over-production by some OPEC member states.

The Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), a respected oil industry weekly published in Nicosia, said Monday that the output by the 13-member group this month was around 20 million barrels a day.

That's about 3.5 million barrels a day over OPEC's overall production quota and was seen as a key factor in depressing world oil prices.

IRNA quoted Khamenei as saying that OPEC members should strictly adhere to their quotas. But he too made no direct mention of the issue of Iraq's quota.

But he did note that among Iran's prime concerns were OPEC unity and resolving the organization's problems.

Subroto was expected to fly to Baghdad through Kuwait Wednesday.

He had talks Monday with Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Azqadeh.

IRNA said Subroto briefed Azqadeh on his earlier visits to Venezuela, Ecuador, Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Kuwait on the over-production issue. But it gave no details.

OPEC overcame a major stumbling block to its efforts to impose production discipline earlier this month after Venezuela dropped its veto against giving Iraq a quota equal to Iran's.

Eleven of the OPEC states now agree to that. Iran is now the only holdout.

MEES speculated that Subroto would stress to the Iranians that allowing Iraq quota parity would help break Baghdad's production, now and in the future.

With the United Nations-spon-

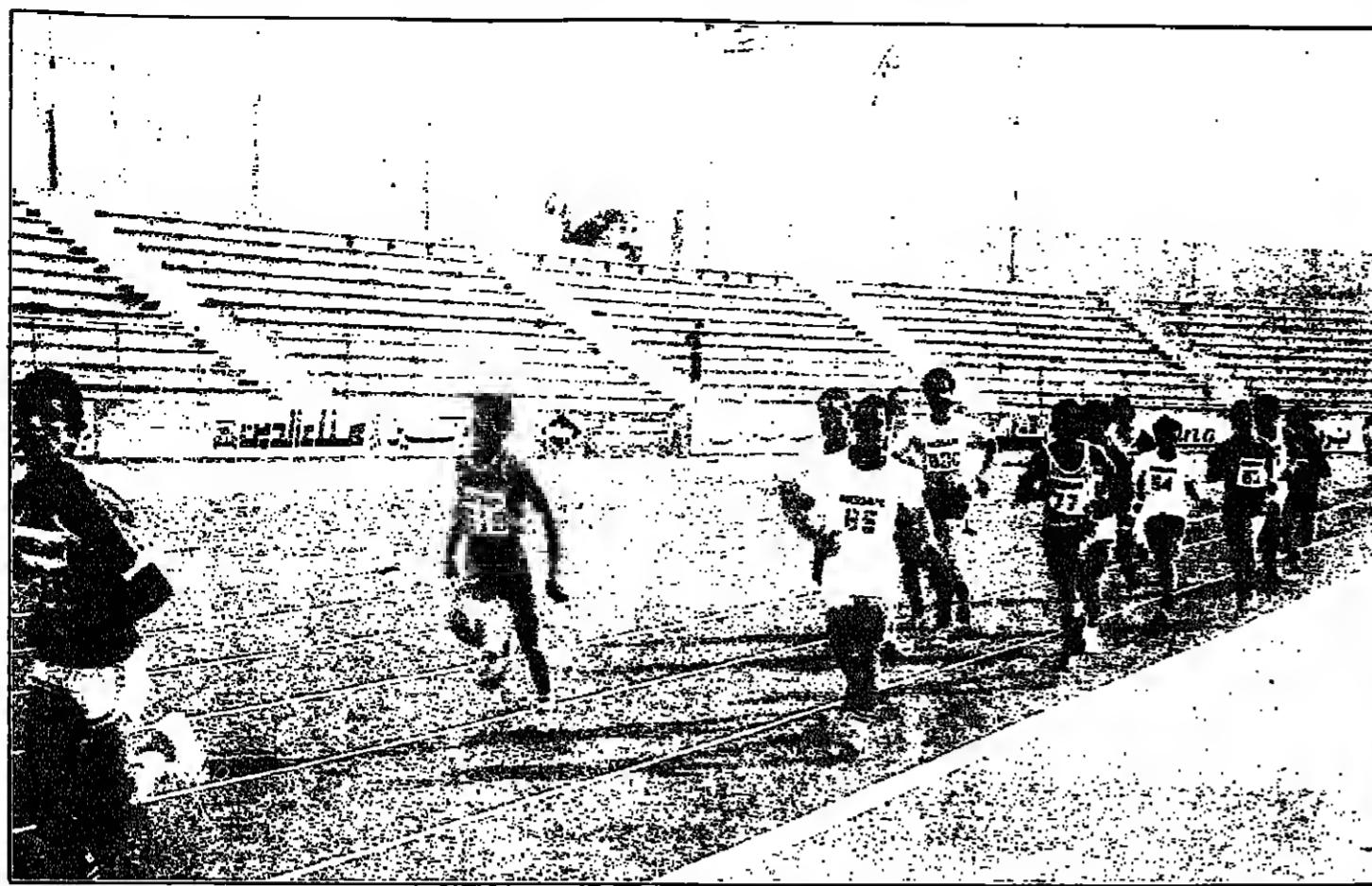
sored Aug. 20 ceasefire apparently holding, Iraq and Iran have both started repairing oil facilities damaged in the nearly eight years of fighting.

Oil industry sources believe that Iraq will be able to install makeshift oil loading terminals in the northern Gulf within a few months, allowing it to boost its export capacity by one million barrels a day.

Iraq is also expanding its export pipeline network, which would increase its production capacity to more than three million barrels a day by the end of the decade.

The Iranians for their part are repairing the heavily bombed Kharq Island terminal, which accounts for 90 per cent of their oil exports.

MEES said Tehran seeks to restore full export capacity there by November.



Despite the availability of sports facilities, the multitude of sports federations and their uncoordinated policies have hindered preparations for the Olympics

Good ambassadors to the world

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's chances of winning medals at the September Olympics in Seoul are almost nil.

According to Jordan's Olympic Committee Secretary General Muwaffaq Al Fawaz, the most that the Jordanian team can do is present its members as good ambassadors to the world. "He explained that given the limitations on sports in the country, nothing more can be expected from the athletic delegation.

"Our participation in the Seoul Olympics is a token participation," Fawaz told the Jordan Times. "We are taking part but we are not expecting to come back with any medals," even though participation would give the athletes considerable experience, Fawaz added.

Fawaz, who is head of the Jordanian delegation to Seoul, said Jordan's decision to take part in the Olympics was based on several factors including political and social ties, legal and financial considerations.

"On the governmental level, the Korean and Jordanian ties are such that we cannot but participate in the Olympics," Fawaz said. "By attending the Olympics we will also strengthen the social ties between the Jordanian and (South) Korean people," he added.

He said that being a member of the International Olympic Committee, Jordan would face sanctions by the committee if it did not participate in the games. The Kingdom would stand to lose

\$15,000 which it receives annually from the Olympic Solidarity Fund (OSF), according to Fawaz.

Several reasons account for Jordan's minimal chances of making Olympic achievement in the Seoul games. To start with, Jordan's decision to participate in the Olympics was taken as late as April 5 this year. The games start September 17.

"The preparation (of the athletes for the next games) should start immediately after each Olympic games," Fawaz said. "This is the case in most countries."

According to Fawaz, the absence of consistent policies among the athletic federations in the country has affected Jordan's chances at the Olympics.

"The government does not take sports seriously," Fawaz said. "The only consistency (in sports policies) is found among

the sports clubs, and not among the sports federations which are responsible for training, but which frequently undergo leadership changes," he added.

The other reason cited by Fawaz was the lack of funds necessary for proper preparation and training.

"Our participation is modest because of the lack of funds," Fawaz said, adding that this year, a sum of JD 10,000 (approximately \$30,000) was budgeted for the Olympic committee, an amount which accounts for 70 per cent of the committee's funds. The remaining 30 per cent are covered by non-governmental contributions such as the OSF, according to Fawaz. A sum of JD 20,000 was allocated for the delegation's trip to Seoul — the delegation includes nine athletes, three coaches, a doctor, an international referee, a journalist and an

administrator.

Two female athletes are participating in table tennis and archery. The male athletes are taking part in wrestling, boxing, and fencing. Two Jordanians will take part in taekwondo demonstrations, which unfortunately for Jordanians, is still considered an exhibition game at the Olympics.

During the 10th Asian games, Jordanian athletes earned 3 gold and one bronze medal and came in 16th place from a total of 34 countries, Fawaz said.

At Seoul, the delegation is not expected to stay until the end of the games, a sign of how certain the team is of not winning any medals. "After all, there are 12,000 athletes competing for 69 medals," Fawaz commented.

The one positive thing about taking part in the games, according to Fawaz, is that the young athletes, 24 or below, will gain considerable experience and may perform better at the 1992 games. For the time being however, Fawaz suggested a few solutions: Sufficient funds should be allocated to enable sports federations to spread sports activities all over the Kingdom; sports centres should be set up all over the country and at different levels; time and quality-wise, sports should be given more importance in schools; incentives should be given to athletes, be it at school or at university, so that they feel the time spent on sports is not compensated. Athletes should be able to see what the prospects for their future are, should they choose to take sports seriously.



Swimming is a favoured sport among Jordanian youths

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

16:00 Korean Programme 16:00-16:25 Cartoons and children's programmes 16:25 Small wonder 16:40 News summary in Arabic 16:45 Message from Cairo 18:15 Local series 19:18 Local programme 19:35 Programmatic review 20:00 News in Arabic 20:40 Arabic series 21:25 Programmatic review 21:30 Local programme 22:30 Wrestling 23:00 News summary in Arabic 23:10 Wrestling (cont'd.)

WORLDNET

(At the American Cultural Centre)

06:00 America Today 11:00 America Today 12:00 America Today 13:00 America Today 14:00 The Sordid Scene 14:30 American Business English 14:45 Science World 15:00 Washington Foreign Press Centre Briefing 16:00 WorldNet Dialogue: TV Satellite Technology 17:00 WorldNet (English) 17:30 Growing a Business (English)

BBC WORLD SERVICE

06:00 La France a la carte 18:30 Rue Carnot 19:00 News in French 19:15 Un DB de plus 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 Olympic Sports 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Asia - All - Panorama, selling the Nuclear Dream 21:30 Twilight Zone 22:00 News in English 22:20 Hoover vs. the Kennedys

RADIO JORDAN

85 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 2660 KHz, SW Tel: 774111-19

07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newdesk 08:00 Morning Show 10:00 News Summary Morning Show Contd. 11:00 Songs from Movies 11:30 News Summary 12:00 Readings 12:30 Pop Session 13:00 News Summary 13:05 Pop Session 14:00 News Bulletin 14:10 Instruments 14:30 The Young Sound 15:00 Concert Hour 16:00 News in Summary 16:05 Instruments 16:30 Old Favourites 17:00 Jordan Weekly 17:30 News Summary

07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial News 08:00 News 08:09 24 Hours: News Summary 08:30 Report on Religion 08:45 The World Today 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Meridian 10:00 World News 10:59 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 10:30 Development '88 11:00 World News 11:09 Reflections 11:15 Classical Record Review 11:30 Brain of Britain 1988 12:00 World News 12:00 British Press Review 12:15 The World Today 12:30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup 12:45 Jazz Scene UK 13:00 News Summary followed by Omnibus 13:30 Trivia Test Match 14:00 World News 14:09 News about Britain 14:15 Country Stories 14:30 Meridian 15:00 World News 15:15 The Times for 15:25 The Following World 15:45 Sports Roundup 16:00 World News 16:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 16:30 Development '88 17:00 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News 17:45 Report on Religion 18:00 Radio Newsred 18:15 Three Wishes 18:30 Radio Active 19:00 World News 19:49 News about Britain 19:51 Hitting the High Notes 19:45 The World Today 20:00 World Today 20:30 News Ideas 20:40 Book Choice 20:45 Sports Roundup 21:00 Newsdesk 21:30 Multicart 2:22:00

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VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 Hz

07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 17:30 VOA Morning 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 09:30 News 09:10 Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning 10:00 Newsline 10:10 Newsline 10:30 VOA Morning 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 Music USA 20:00 News 20:10 Focus 20:30 Special English News & Features 21:00 News 21:10 Newsline 21:30 Magazine Show 22:00 News 22:18 Focus 22:30 Special English News & Features 23:00 News 23:10 Newsline 23:30 Music USA 24:00 News & Editorial 01:00 Music USA 02:00 News 02:15 Write On... 02:30 Multicart 2

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 La France a la carte 18:30 Rue Carnot 19:00 News in French 19:15 Un DB de plus 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 Olympic Sports 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Asia - All - Panorama, selling the Nuclear Dream

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07:00 Newsdesk 07



FAREWELL: Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Ihab Wahbe (left) Tuesday called on the Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi to bid him farewell. Wahbe has been transferred to another post following the termination of his tour of duty in Jordan (Petra photo)

Sierra Leone ministers leave after air talks

AMMAN (R) — Two members of the Sierra Leone cabinet left Jordan Tuesday after talks on air transport cooperation, a Royal Jordanian (RJ) airline official said.

The official, who declined to be identified, said transport and communications Minister Michael Abdulla and Justice Minister Abdulsai Conteh had asked Royal Jordanian officials for advice on airline management.

He said the two ministers handed His Majesty King Hussein a letter from Sierra Leone President Joseph Momoh stressing his country's desire to foster ties.

A political source said the two ministers also discussed settlement of a debt to Jordan's national airline over an aircraft leasing deal, put at between \$5 to \$7 million.

Under a 1983 management agreement, Royal Jordanian operated two flights a week between Sierra Leone, London and Paris. It ended the accord in 1987

because of foreign currency shortages in Sierra Leone.

Community college exam not cancelled

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Education will not cancel a comprehensive examination which it organises for community college students upon their completion of two-year or three-year training courses, the Ministry Secretary General Ahmad Tal announced here Tuesday.

Tal said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the examination, which allows successful students to get their diplomas, was initiated originally to control the educational process, improve the standard of community colleges and make an assessment of the students' learning during their courses.

Reports of the ministry's intention to cancel this examination are totally groundless, Tal said, denying earlier reports in the local press.

He said the ministry will continue to arrange this examination;

and has introduced new regulations and curricula for community colleges.

The Ministry of Higher Education announced the results of the community colleges' comprehensive examination for 1988 on Aug. 22, saying that 80.25 per cent of those who took the examinations passed.

Tal, who made the announcement at a press conference, said 16,560 students took the examination organised by the ministry last month, but only 13,289 passed.

The average number of successful students this year was higher than in previous years because of the higher averages required by community colleges for acceptance, and the nature of examinations, Tal said.

He said those who failed would have the chance to repeat the examination in the coming academic year.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MALAYSIAN INDEPENDENCE: His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable of good wishes to the King of Malaysia Sultan Mahmud Iskandar Al Haj on his country's independence anniversary. King Hussein wished the Malaysian monarch and his people continued health, happiness, further prosperity and progress (Petra).

BILATERAL TIES: Minister of Social Development Fawwaz Touqan met in his office Tuesday with Brazil's Ambassador to Jordan Felix de Faria and discussed bilateral cooperation in the field of social development (Petra).

HORSE SHOW: A three-day Arabian horses festival starts in Amman Wednesday with 8 Arab countries participating. Heading the Qatari delegation is Sheikh Nawaf ibn Naser Al Nahyan, president of the Qatari equestrian club, who arrived Tuesday in Amman to take part in the festival (Petra).

TRAINING NURSES: A 10-day training course for nursing instructors on primary health care ended in Amman Tuesday. A total of 17 nurses and midwives who took part in the course are currently employed in health centres in different areas in Jordan (Petra).

ELECTRICITY: The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) announced Tuesday that it has spent JD 150,000 this year on building transformer stations in the Zarqa governorate. It said that this year electrification projects were carried out at a number of areas within the Zarqa governorate at the overall cost of JD 900,000 (Petra).

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE: The National Aid Fund paid JD 151,000 in cash assistance to needy families in Mafraq governorate this year, according to the director of Social Development in Mafraq (Petra).

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan Al Jaber has set November 26 as a day for municipal elections in Maan and said that nomination of candidates would take place between November 15 and November 17. (Petra).

TRAINING: Mu'ta University President Ali Mahafza has opened a month long training course for chief clerks and accountants working for the municipal councils in Karak, Tafleah and Maan governorates at the civil branch of Mu'ta University. The course aims to inform the 80 participants on issues relating to the preparation of budgets, reports, financial regulation, procurement lists, tender documents and supply lists. It also aims to inform them on the new concept of administration and organisation and how to deal with administrative problems facing them (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- * Arabic calligraphy and art exhibition by Faisal Ashour at the Housing Bank Complex.
- * Painting exhibition by Colombian artist Maria Amparo Valencia at the Alia Art Gallery.
- * Urban Development Corporation exhibition showing samples of the department's development projects in Zarqa.
- * Chinese Commodities Fair: 6:00 p.m. Housing Bank Complex.
- * Play readings at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation's Cultural Centre, at 6:00 p.m.

Excavations unearth Umayyad mosque at Khirbet Al Kursi

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Mohammad Hammouri, visited the Khirbet Al Kursi site on the premises of the Al Hussein Medical Centre on Tuesday, and toured the archaeological excavations currently being carried out by a team from the University of Jordan in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities.

The minister was told that the

digs have unearthed an ancient village dating back to the Umayyad period, a Byzantine church, an olive press and warehouses for agricultural products.

Ministry of Culture officials said that an ancient mosque which was also found at the site contains decorative designs, and an agreement has been reached with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to carry out restoration work on the mosque in

cooperation with the University of Jordan and the Department of Antiquities.

The minister asked the Department of Antiquities to take appropriate measures to safeguard the archaeological site and to conduct restoration work wherever necessary.

The department director, Adnan Hadidi, accompanied the minister on his tour.

Queen opens Cooperatives Day

KARAK (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor opened an exhibition of agricultural products here Tuesday in observation of the "Cooperatives Day."

The three-day exhibition, which displays products from various cooperatives affiliated to the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO), aims to highlight the work and objectives of coop-

erative societies in contributing towards the country's agricultural development.

The Karak governor gave a speech outlining the importance of cooperatives and their service to the local community.

The JCO director and several local officials were present at the opening ceremony.

ZARQA (Petra) — The Department of Education in the Governorate of Zarqa has opened 26 new secondary, vocational and compulsory schools in the current year. Starting up costs were in the region of JD 6,700,000.

The director of education in the governorate stated that these schools have been equipped with the necessary facilities and materials, and that most of them had already received their pupils for the present academic year.

Zarqa implements JD 56m of 5-year development plan

ZARQA (Petra) — In the first half of the 1986-1990 five-year plan, the Zarqa governorate spent JD 55,891 million on different aspects of the plan, Zarqa Governor Eid Qatarnah announced Tuesday.

He said funds were spent on industrial projects and the development of the agricultural sec-

tor, including crop production, the construction of roads, social services, housing, water and education.

Of these projects, Qatarnah said JD 1.7 million has been spent on the construction of a nursing and midwifery college at Yajouz, and JD 20 million has been spent on social services.

Thirteen schools have been set up within the governorate of Zarqa at a cost of JD 5,266 million, Qatarnah added.

He said JD 2,352 million were spent on projects for the development of agricultural land, including land within the Zarqa River basin.

British Council marks 40th anniversary

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In 1948, Great Britain established a channel of cultural cooperation with Jordan that in the past 40 years has increased its role by involving itself in all educational and social levels of life in the Kingdom.

The British Council, established exactly 40 years ago, has grown and developed over the years "side by side with internal development of the country," according to David Latta, head of the British Council in Amman.

In a press conference held at the council's headquarters Tuesday, Latta told reporters that the anniversary "is not so much for celebrations," but that it was time to "assess the work of the council, its employees and the people associated with it."

"It is also a time to note

changes in the Kingdom during the time we were here," Latta pointed out that "Amman is a much better place now than it was in the 50's and 60's."

This fortieth anniversary, Latta said, "is a time when we pledge that we will be here in the future."

Latta assessed the activities of the council and the contributions it has made in the past four decades to the people of Jordan and the Jordanian educational institutions.

"One feature of our cooperation projects is the one we have with ministries of education and higher education," Latta said.

The British Council undertook the implementation of an agreement between Jordan and Britain to introduce computers to 200 secondary schools in the Kingdom.

This project was adopted by the council last year, replacing

the British Embassy in Amman and the Overseas Development Agency which were originally assigned to the project.

The agreement between the two countries also calls for providing the Ministry of Education with technological equipment, developing the computer departments in the government schools and training ministry teachers in Britain, at the rate of 25 teachers a year for three years.

"This is the first year we send 100 students to study in Britain, mainly in post graduate and technical majors," Latta said. He said that "our secret ambition is double that of numbers of students we send not to Britain."

Facilities available at the council include a library, established in 1948, which caters to the needs of 1,300 readers, and 800 Jordanian students studying English language at the council.



Minister of Information Hani Khasawneh (in dark suit left) Tuesday sees off Jordan's 3rd relief (Petra photo)

3rd relief mission leaves for Sudan

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan Tuesday sent its third relief mission to Sudan in less than two weeks in a bid to alleviate the sufferings of the people displaced in the flood-ravaged Arab country.

Information Minister Hani Khasawneh saw off the third mission on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who is president of the National Committee for Solidarity with the Sudanese People, and wished its members success in their task.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's assistance to Sudan stems from this country's deep pan-Arab commitment, and its desire to extend a helping hand to all Arabs in a time of need, Khasawneh noted.

Khasawneh said that relief supplies are being dispatched to Sudan upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan; and expressed hope that the Sudanese people will overcome their present ordeal.

The third mission is taking with it equipment needed to finalize expansion work on Al Kass hospital in western Sudan to enable it to carry out its humanitarian mission.

In addition to the medical staff, the mission includes a team representing the Jordanian media. These journalists plan to cover the situation in Sudan comprehensively in the wake of the floods that have displaced nearly

1.5 million people. Khasawneh expressed the hope that Sudan will be able to overcome the disaster and that Arab countries will extend emergency aid to their Sudanese brothers.

Sudan's Ambassador to Jordan Mahioub Radwan, who saw off the mission at the airport, said that his countrymen were going through very difficult conditions in the wake of the floods, which caused extensive damage to property and crops. The country, he added, now lies victim to swarms of locusts which have invaded vast areas of Sudan.

On Sunday, Jordan had dispatched its second relief mission to Sudan comprising 13 doctors, technicians, a number of specialists and civil defence men. Also included in the shipment were medical equipment, water purification materials and other relief supplies.

Jordan, Egypt hold talks on energy-sharing

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt Tuesday opened talks here on bilateral cooperation in electricity and other forms of energy, and in particular measures to be taken for linking their national grids in the coming two years.

The delegations are led on the Jordanian side by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib, and on the Egyptian side by Minister of Electricity and Energy Maher Abaza. The two sides reviewed bilateral cooperation in the production and distribution of electric power and continued discussion of plans for linking the two countries' national grids and launching projects to obtain new forms of energy and renewable energy.

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Soviet initiative

MOST parties in the area should welcome the news that the Soviet Union may soon launch a dynamic initiative aiming for a negotiated settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Several key elements of such a move have started falling into place, including: an improvement in Israeli-Soviet contacts, the expectation that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is on the verge of a major new policy announcement emphasising Palestinian willingness to coexist in peace in an independent Palestinian state next to an Israeli state, the emergence of important voices within Israel which speak about Israeli-PLO negotiations in the wake of a Labour Party victory in the parliamentary elections, and the end of American-dominated peace-making.

The Soviet Union is in the midst of a major political transition, whose full implications and ramifications remain to be seen. One obvious result of the Gorbachev era, however, is already visible in the willingness of the two superpowers and their allies/clients in the Third World to resolve regional conflicts in a more just and realistic manner, as we have started to witness in Afghanistan, Namibia, Cyprus, Cambodia, the Gulf war and other spots where superpower influence varies in nature and degree. A greater Soviet role in Arab-Israeli peace-making is not only useful — it is imperative. It will rid us of the nonsensical idea that the United States is the only possible mediator in town, and it will provide the geo-political balance that is vital for meaningful talks and, subsequently, for effective security guarantees delivered through and assured by the Security Council, or some other United Nations or multilateral arrangement. As the Soviets are likely to focus on the concept of equal national rights for both Palestinians and Israelis, and guarantees for all other concerned parties in the region, we suspect their approach will be well received in the area, and will help redress the balance which has been distorted for so long by American inequity, bias and insensitivity.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS



Al Ra'i: Brotherly talks

KING Hussein's visit to Saudi Arabia and his talks with King Fahd and Abdul Aziz came in the wake of a ceasefire in the Gulf conflict which Jordan and Saudi Arabia have worked very hard to end. There is no doubt that the Gulf situation was the focus of the talks in Jeddah since both leaders believe in continued consultations over urgent issues and questions of concern to the whole Arab Nation. Jordan and Saudi Arabia have been staunch supporters for Iraq and have both extended support to the Iraqi people to enable them to fend off the Iranian danger. The King's visit to the Saudi monarch was for consultation and coordination in the preparation for the coming stage; the talks also dealt with matters pertaining to the future of the Gulf region and means of ensuring its security. Another question of common Arab interest is Jordan's recent decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank. This too was no doubt on the agenda of the two Arab leaders who are both concerned over the future of the Palestinians and regard this decision as a step towards bolstering the PLO stand and enabling the Palestinian people to maintain their struggle against occupation. In addition, both leaders must have discussed further steps towards strengthening bilateral ties in a manner that would ensure for their countries a leading role in safeguarding pan-Arab interests.

Al Dustour: Iran's manoeuvring

THE ongoing negotiations in Geneva for settling the Iran-Iraq conflict are being exploited by Iran through diplomatic manoeuvres to achieve the evil objectives of the Teheran regime. Such attitude proves beyond doubt that the Iraqis are now involved in a long and difficult battle for peace, no less dangerous than that which had raged for the past eight years along the common border. It has become clear that the Iranian delegation is intent on exercising blackmail methods and delaying the arrival at a peaceful and just settlement. The Iraqi side which presented no preconditions, seeks an honourable peace; and in this endeavour it requires support and backing from all Arab and peace-loving nations. For its part, Jordan has supported Iraq all along calls on the Arab states not to spare any effort in helping Iraq in Geneva talks which is regarded as an extension to the war area along the Iraqi-Iranian border. Arab backing to Iraq's diplomatic efforts is a must, since Iraq has offered sacrifices and the blood of its citizens in defence of the Arab Nation. But we have no doubt that the Iraqis who were able to liberate their occupied territories can and will foil the Iranian manoeuvres. Iraq's right in the Shatt Al Arab waterway is a sacred one and should be supported by the world community and the Arab Nation.

Sawt Al Shaab: Removing all obstacles

IN an interview with Al Watan newspaper of Kuwait, Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani reaffirmed the objectives of the Jordanian decision to sever legal ties with the West Bank. He said that the decision was taken in response to the wishes of the PLO and the other Arab countries and in a drive to enable the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people carry on the efforts towards regaining the usurped lands and rights in Palestine. Of course the minister said Jordan will maintain its strong backing for the PLO and the Palestinian people in this respect, and will do all it can to achieve the aspired goals. The decision was intended to help project the Palestinian identity and to prove that Jordan is not seeking to compete with the PLO in representing the Palestinians.

Palestinians are continuing in the struggle for an independent state

50 years later: still fighting for self-determination

The following is the second of four articles in which analysts and historians discuss with Jordan Times Staff Reporter Nawa Najar parallels and differences between the 1936 Palestinian revolt and the 1988 uprising.

AMMAN — On Aug. 30, 1936 the Arab Higher Committee decided to continue the general strike, and accepted mediation by Arab heads of state.

The British authorities suggested sending an 11-member committee headed by Lord Peel to come to Palestine "to study the situation" and "to give a just solution." If the Palestinians ended the revolt. At the same time the British were intensifying their military operations against the revolt with new reinforcements arriving from abroad.

At first the Arab Higher Committee boycotted the Peel Commission, mainly because Britain had just issued new Jewish immigration quota. Most Arab states attending the Arab national congress conference in Bludan, Syria rejected the commission as well.

Only the intervention of some Arab leaders convinced the Palestinians to end the general strike on Oct. 11, 1936. According to one analyst the Palestinians abided by the Arab leaders calls because they were more "Arab" than "Palestinian."

Bahjat Abu Gharbieh, a participant in the 1936 revolt and ex-member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) executive committee disagreed.

"The main weakness of the leadership was its inability to fully oppose the British and to enter a full fledged war against them," said Abu Gharbieh, who is now in publishing.

He explained that the "nature" of the Palestinian leadership did not allow for this because their interests were linked with the British. "Many worked for the British. The British saw that the Palestinians would not pressure them. This made the British 'hold tight' to their stand," Abu Gharbieh said.

"However, this was the kind of leadership available at that time, since there were no unions." He added that this leadership however, was able to rally the people around it.

The revolt entered into a short lull between November 1936 and January 1937, when the Peel Commission was touring Pales-

tine. However, Palestinians were outraged by the recommendations of the Peel Commission, and violence exploded at unprecedented levels in July 1937 and lasted until the fall of 1938.

On July 7, 1937 the Peel Commission's report recommended the partition of Palestine into a Jewish state, and Arab state with some territorial links with Transjordan and British mandatory enclaves. It also recommended the forcible transfer, if necessary, of Palestinian population out of the proposed Jewish state.

Of all commissions' reports, that of Peel's is considered to have been most favourable to Zionists. Jews would have received not only 33 per cent of the total area of the country but the best of its lands. At a time when Jewish ownership did not exceed 5.6 per cent of Palestine, the lands of Safad in the Galilee, the Acre district and the coastal plain, from the Lebanese border of Jaffa, would have been handed over to them. The proposed Jewish state would have almost as many Arabs as Jews, not counting the bedouins.

Two weeks later the Arab Higher Committee dismissed the partition proposal and demanded an independent unitary Palestinian state "with protection of all legitimate Jewish and other minority rights and the safeguarding of reasonable British interests." Palestinians feared that their land within the Jewish state would be confiscated and that they would be forcibly transferred. Palestinians also opposed the incorporation of the proposed Palestinian state into Transjordan.

"Many blame us for not agreeing to the partition plan at that time," said secretary of the Nablus national committee at the time, Akram Zu'iter. "What they cannot see is that all of Palestine was our land. How could we have accepted part of it at that time?" asked Zu'iter, who presently heads the Amman-based Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs affiliated to what used to be the Ministry of Occupied Territories.

All the participants inter-

viewed stressed that partition in 1936 was unacceptable since Palestinians were the majority on the land and they considered the whole country their own. Some pointed out that their own villages would have been part of the Jewish state.

In September 1937, the Arab national congress met again in Bludan and 450 delegates from Arab countries denounced the partition proposal, and demanded the termination of the British mandate, the cessation of Zionist immigration into Palestine and the prohibition of transfer of Arab lands to Zionist ownership.

The Peel plan was equipped with

Palestinian leaders were arrested.

At the height of the revolt the combined forces of the British police and army, and the Zionist terrorist groups amounted to 100,000. The British cooperated with the Jewish Agency's secret army and with the Haganah to organise, train and arm two special forces: The special night squads and the Jewish settlement police. They numbered 14,000 by 1938. It was with the growth of this strength from 1937 until 1938 that new tactics of throwing grenades and planting time bombs in the crowded market places were introduced.

The British were equipped with

"Many blame us for not agreeing to the partition plan at the time... what they cannot see is that all of Palestine was our land."

analysis of the 1936 revolt as a "tactical" move on behalf of the British to divide the Palestinians. These analysts agreed that the proposal generated opposing opinions at a time when unity was crucial.

"Just proposing such a solution was bound to lead to differences. The Palestinians' main topic of discussion at the time was what was happening in the country. So when there was such a proposal, they were of course going to discuss it," said one analyst.

Abu Gharbieh noted how the discussions did lead to differences. "There was a division among the Palestinians with Raghib Nishishi (member of the Arab Higher Committee) opting to link the Palestinian state to Transjordan and other Palestinians rejecting the notion completely," said Zu'iter.

Despite the differing opinions of the leadership, the rebellion continued. The British response to escalating Palestinian resistance was to "cut the head of the rebellion."

Using the assassination of a British senior administrator in Nazareth by Palestinians in September 1937 as an excuse, the British outlawed the Arab Higher Committee for Palestine and arrested all its members, except for Haj Amin who managed to escape to Lebanon. On Oct. 1, 1937 five of the Arab Higher Committee leaders were deported to the Seychelles islands in the Indian Ocean. Scores of other

tanks, planes, machine guns and cannons. The Palestinians, numbering 10,000, were armed only with a few rifles. "Towards the end of the revolt the Palestinians possessed 600 rifles," said Abu Gharbieh.

Thousands of Palestinians including professionals, civil servants, clergymen, students and farmers were thrown into special "detention camps." Military tribunals passed summary sentences including death by hanging for the possession of arms. Collective punishment was imposed on entire towns and villages by blowing up schools, levying fines in kind or cash and billeting troops at the expense of the residents.

"The British used harsh measures against the Palestinians including hangings, deportations, arrests," said Zu'iter.

Another participant in the revolt, who requested anonymity, noted the "brutality" of the British in the Halhoul incident when 23 women, children, and elderly died in Halhoul from hunger and thirst.

He also noted that "fingernails were pulled off," wax or oil was heated and poured on Palestinians, and "men were planted in the ground and water sprinkled on them."

Lawyer Yahya Hammarski, who also took part in the revolt spoke about the arrests, "Palestinians were imprisoned without trial and military arrests were common."

In 1938 nearly 1,700 Arabs were killed, 486 civilians and 1,138 fighters.

The rebellion was sustained unabated during 1938, but "the expulsion of the Arab leaders left the Palestinians without the political leadership they needed," said one historian. Although the Arab Higher Committee continued its activities from Lebanon where Haj Amin took refuge, it could not however, exercise control over military groups that were constituted into regional groups in Palestine.

Several areas of Palestine including Jerusalem fell under Palestinian control. Arab countries voiced their support and Palestinians demands were again endorsed in October 1938 by the Arab parliamentarians' congress and the Arab women's congress, both held in Cairo.

In the same year, public services in Bethlehem, Nablus and Ramallah were brought to a halt and the British and the Zionists built a wall on the Syrian border to curtail infiltration of Arab fighters.

Many Palestinians could not accept the white paper because of the ambiguity of the phrase "Arab acquiescence" in relation to continuing future Jewish immigration and the conditional nature of the promised independent unitary state.

However, the participants of the 1936 revolt consider the 1939 white paper a "victory." They agree that Palestinians were aware that battling and overpowering the British single-handedly was "beyond their capabilities."

"We succeeded in fulfilling two of our demands: Limiting Jewish immigration and outlawing the transfer of Arab lands to the Jews," said Zu'iter. Eventually the third demand for an independent Palestinian state was mentioned, it was never fulfilled. Six years later the state of Israel was created.

"During the four years 8,000 Palestinians were killed," said Abu Gharbieh, adding that Palestinians were willing to sacrifice their lives. "We had fought the Turks for our independence, now we were revolting against the British occupation," he continued.

Today the Palestinian people are still fighting for self-determination and an independent Palestinian state. To date, 260 Palestinians have died resisting the Israeli occupation since the uprising started in December, 1987.

IRA rides high but British government vows to hit back

By Marcus Eliason
The Associated Press

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — Two sights in central Belfast are reminders of how quickly the balance can shift in the treacherous ebb and flow of the Northern Ireland conflict.

A wreath by the Queen Elizabeth bridge commemorates Lt. Alan Shiekh, a naval recruiting officer who was blown up by a bomb while driving into Belfast Monday, the 26th British military man to die in an Irish Republican Army attack this year.

Beyond the bridge, workers clear the wreckage left by an IRA car bomb that exploded in the commercial heart of Belfast Tuesday.

The army deaths are a sharp increase from 1987, when the IRA managed to kill only three soldiers. The bombing is a sobering reminder to Belfast that peace and prosperity that has blossomed in its business and entertainment centre over six relatively bomb-free years.

IRA attacks usually come in short, bloody bursts, and no one knows how long this one will last.

But it represents at least a temporary surge in activity by the IRA in its campaign to rid Northern Ireland of British rule and unite the province with the Irish Republic.

The army deaths are a sharp increase from 1987, when the IRA managed to kill only three soldiers. The bombing is a sobering reminder to Belfast that peace and prosperity that has blossomed in its business and entertainment centre over six relatively bomb-free years.

Some analysts imagine the fighting reaching a stalemate in which the British agree to talk about troop withdrawal, the IRA accepts a truce, and all parties acknowledge the futility of violence and sit down for peace talks.

But Paul Arthur, a political scientist at the University of Ulster, believes Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is too deeply committed to fighting terrorism to agree to anything that smacks of a deal with the IRA.

Things got bad

Thus the shift to attacks on soldiers, with little risk to civilians, is a morale booster for IRA supporters, who were feeling increasingly embarrassed at seeing the IRA repeatedly having to excuse its mistakes.

Things got so bad that Gerry Adams, president of the outlawed IRA's legal political wing, Sinn Fein, had to warn the IRA publicly to "get its house in order."

The attacks on the army have taken place in mainland Britain and continental Europe, but the deadliest have been in Northern Ireland, where six off-duty soldiers were blown up in their van

soldier who has been sent in from Britain.

The struggle at present is shaped mainly by propaganda needs.

The IRA aims to turn the

British public off Northern Ireland and into a mood to bring the boys back home.

The British people need to ask if there is not another way," says Sinn Fein's Adams. "They

should actively press for their government to withdraw."

The British government counters with the charge that the weapons and explosives fueling the summer blitz have come from Libya.

These supplies, says Tom King, the government's Northern Ireland secretary, "may have given some people the idea that somehow violence can actually win."

Gulf experience has not changed U.S. strategy

By Charles Aldinger
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The U.S. navy has learned a few war-fighting lessons from its Gulf escort experience but none likely to change its global strategy, according to both Pentagon and private defence analysts.

With Iraq and Iran seeking to end their eight-year-old war and the United States preparing to end its 29-ship Gulf force,

experts say the navy is trying to shore up weak points uncovered in such traumas as the 1987 sinking of the frigate Stark and the shooting down of an Iranian passenger jet last month.

Shipboard changes under way include better fire prevention gear and damage-control training as a result of the Iraqi aircraft missile attack that killed 37 U.S. sailors aboard the Stark in May 1987.

Misidentification of an Iranian Airbus led the U.S. cruiser Vincennes to shoot the civilian plane down in the heat of a surface

battle in July, killing all 290 people aboard.

Apart from a few such touches on the Rudder, however, the navy appears unlikely to shake up fleet operations much as a result of its experience escort

American activists shocked by conditions in W. Bank and Gaza

WASHINGTON (R) — After returning from a two-week stay in the Israeli-occupied territories, a group of 12 private U.S. citizens Monday called conditions in Palestinian refugee camps "shocking" and "nightmarish."

The group, mostly peace activists and human rights advocates, spent about two weeks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to observe first-hand the nine-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

The group's trip was organised by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, but none of the participants, who each paid about \$900, is a member of the committee.

"If there is a pattern to all the human rights violations against these people, it is one of attempting to intimidate the Palestinians that they will leave their homes and become one more refugee group in the world," the Americans said in a statement.

They said the violence, regularly shown on American television and reported in newspapers earlier this year before the Israeli government banned the media from many areas, still dominates everyday life in the occupied territories.

"I witnessed a teargas canister being shot into a shattered two-room house leaving the family of six who lives there with respiratory problems and the two and a half-months old baby unconscious and sluggish since," said Scott Shaeffer-Duffy, a Catholic relief worker from Massachusetts.

"The conditions in the refugees' camps are nightmarish," said another participant, Norman Finkelstein, a political science professor from Brooklyn college in New York. "It was absolutely shocking."

During their stay in the occupied territories, several of the American activists described the Israeli army as "animals."



Israeli jails 'Nazi-like concentration camps'

By Karin Laub
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — A 16-year-old Palestinian held at a desert prison camp said Monday he was forced to strip naked, cover himself with paint and stand in the sun for several hours before troops clubbed him to remove the dried paint flakes.

Walid Sayfi of Jerusalem, who said the punishment was imposed because he started at a soldier, was one of three former prisoners who claimed at a news conference that inmates were regularly beaten and humiliated at the Ketzot prison camp in the Naqib desert.

The news conference was called by the Israeli League for Civil and Human Rights. Its chairman, Israel Shahak, is a survivor of a Nazi camp said some practices at Ketzot, also called Ansar 3, were comparable to those used by the Nazis.

"Some of the ordinary things done in Bergen Belsen were exactly what was done in Ansar 3," said Shahak, a chemistry professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. "Ansar 3 and others should be called Nazi-like concentration camps."

Monday's news conference coincided with an Israeli parliament debate on Ketzot, where about 2,500 Palestinians are being held, most of them for up to six months without being charged with specific crimes or put on trial.

The often stormy debate was sparked by a Communist Party motion to appoint an independent commission of inquiry into the deaths of two detainees during a Ketzot revolt earlier this month.

Parliament rejected the motion to establish the commission.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, responding to charges about inhumane conditions at Ketzot, told parliament: "The conditions at Ketzot are not comfortable, as at any prison."

He also said the detention camps were designed as a deterrent. He said that as long as the uprising continued, "these prisons will be maintained as a way to show the residents of the (occupied) territories that they will not achieve anything through violence."

Thousands of Palestinians have been detained since the Dec. 8 start of the uprising, and about 5,000 are currently in prison.

according to army figures. The three former Ketzot detainees said they were housed in open-sided tents. They complained of lack of water, insufficient food and long exposure to the hot desert sun.

Sayfi, who was released from Ketzot July 6 after three months, said that after staring at a soldier, he was ordered to what prisoners called the "paint room."

"I was forced to strip, paint myself and then stand in the sun," said Sayfi, speaking through a translator. "After the paint dried, the soldiers beat me so the flakes would fall off. Some parts of the skin also came off."

Another detainee, Khaled Yousef Musa, 28, a farm worker from Jericho, said he was taken to another punishment cell.

Soldiers tied his hands and feet, and then connected them with a tight rope so he was forced to stand bent over backwards in what prisoners called "the hanan position."

Mohammad Jaber, 37, a teacher from the West Bank village of Biddu, described abuse at the Dahraya detention camp where he was held in late March before being transferred to Ketzot.

Thousands of Palestinians have been detained since the Dec. 8 start of the uprising, and about 5,000 are currently in prison.

Israel says Soviets to launch peace initiative

TEL AVIV (R) — The Soviet Union has told Israel it plans to launch a new initiative for Middle East peace in the coming weeks, a senior Israeli official said Tuesday.

Nimrod Novik, an advisor to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, told Israel Radio he learned of Moscow's intentions at a weekend meeting in Paris with Gennady Terassov, deputy head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department.

"He told me enthusiastically and without prompting that the USSR intends to conduct, not in the coming months but in the coming weeks, a very, very determined political initiative in our

region," Novik said. The Israeli official told the Jerusalem Post newspaper Moscow believed conditions were ripe for serious progress in the peace process because world attention was focused on the area.

The Soviet initiative, about which Novik gave few details, will centre on a long-proposed international Middle East peace conference, Novik said. U.S. and Soviet differences on the powers of such a conference have recently narrowed, he said.

Novik also said Moscow believed the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) might be on the verge of major policy changes towards Israel.

"The Soviets are not sure that the PLO is close to accepting U.N. Resolution 242 but they are talking about an internal struggle in the PLO that will carry it to major decisions of historic proportions," Novik told the radio.

Several top PLO leaders hinted in recent weeks at their movement's impending readiness to recognise Israel's existence.

Israel says it will never negotiate with the PLO.

But two rising leaders of the Labour Party said Monday that a Labour victory in Israeli elections Nov. 1 could lead to Israeli-PLO talks if the Palestinians recognise Israel's right to exist and halted acts of "terror."

The Baltimore Sun reported Monday that reacting to the last pace of events, Secretary of State George Shultz plunged into a policy review that focused on ways to recapture the diplomatic initiative for the United States in the Middle East.

The Sun quoted Reagan administration officials as saying Shultz and his senior adviser on the Middle East, Assistant Secretary Richard Murphy, were meeting unexpectedly at the secretary's California vacation house to examine a list of options that included reshaping the U.S. approach to a regional peace settlement.

Officials said that they did not anticipate any new U.S. moves in the Middle East until after the November presidential election but that the secretary wanted to be positioned for an immediate revival of U.S.-led peace efforts afterward.

Meantime, they said, the secretary needed to be prepared for all likely contingencies that the PLO might produce in the coming weeks as it reexamines its possibilities.

Morocco, Polisario accept U.N. plan for W. Sahara

GENEVA (Agencies) — Morocco and Polisario front guerrillas have accepted a United Nations plan to end 12 years of fighting over the Western Sahara, U.N. spokesman Francois Giuliani said Tuesday.

The U.N. plan calls for a ceasefire to be followed by a referendum offering the people of the territory a choice between independence and integration with Morocco.

Giuliani told reporters Morocco and the Algerian-backed Polisario movement had accepted proposals put forward by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Aug. 11.

Giuliani was speaking shortly after Perez de Cuellar met separately with Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali and Echour Mustapha, a member of the Polisario's executive committee in charge of external relations.

The United Nations spokes-

man said implementation of the plan could start before the end of the year.

Perez de Cuellar's plan is believed to have detailed proposals for a ceasefire and a referendum monitored by the United Nations that would lead to independence or affiliation with another nation, most probably Morocco.

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Giuliani told reporters after his meeting with Perez de Cuellar that Morocco's military presence was not an issue, since it was confined to a series of six defensive walls which Morocco had built to prevent Polisario infiltrations.

Mustapha said the Polisario had accepted the way that the question of independence or integration into Morocco would be put to voters in the referendum.

Filali said Morocco ruled out direct talks with the Saharan Arab democratic republic, the political entity which Polisario supporters proclaimed in the Western Sahara in 1976 and which is recognised by 70 countries.

A Polisario representative said Saturday that direct negotiations were the only path to peace.

Giuliani said Perez de Cuellar would meet members of the U.N. Security Council immediately upon his return to New York to work on military aspects of the peace plan.

He declined to give details, but U.N. analysts in Geneva said he probably meant the creation of a peace-keeping force after a ceasefire is declared. Giuliani said Perez de Cuellar would appoint a special representative for the Western Sahara.

The secretary-general hopes implementation of the plan can begin before the end of the year," Giuliani said.

King Hassan of Morocco sent 350,000 unarmed Moroccans into the Western Sahara to lay claim to the territory after Spain agreed to cede control to Morocco and Mauritania.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two special contributions for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency's (UNRWA) emergency programmes in Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, amounting to \$1.3 million, were announced in Vienna Monday.

For the Lebanon emergency, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is providing \$800,000. The money will be used to clear rubble from Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh camps in Beirut so that UNRWA can begin to help Palestine refugee residents of the two camps to repair their homes.

Qatar is providing \$500,000 for food, medical and welfare aid to Palestine refugees living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This is in addition to Qatar's earlier contribution of \$2 million for food commodities and medical care in the occupied territories.

Yassin has heavily criticised the PLO leadership in the past but his latest remarks were some of the harshest.

He said that unlike PLO leaders, he did not see how two states — an Israeli and a Palestinian one — could coexist in the same area.

Yassin said the Muslim resistance movement, which staged its first strike in the West Bank last week, was gaining in strength because the PLO was not managing to bring in money to sustain its supporters.

There is a big difference between those people who work for money and those who work for principles and faith. When those who are paid stop receiving money, they stop working for a certain group. But those who are motivated by their hearts and beliefs go on working," Yassin said.

Suggesting the Islamic movement would eventually supplant secular PLO leadership, he said: "The intifada is only at the beginning, not at the end."

Asked if he regarded the violence of the uprising as constructive, Yassin replied: "If it is based on justice, yes."

"There is a big difference between those people who work for money and those who work for principles and faith. When those who are paid stop receiving money, they stop working for a certain group. But those who are motivated by their hearts and beliefs go on working," Yassin said.

He said the black market, which has flourished due to the lack of goods in state stores, was a positive development that showed the people's initiative in meeting their needs.

He envisaged a society "without government, police or army."

Libya Thursday celebrates the 19th anniversary of the revolution that overthrew the monarchy and Tripoli has been cleaned and decked with green flags for the occasion.

Key Gaza Muslim leader warns PLO against recognising Israel

GAZA (R) — A senior Islamic leader in the occupied Gaza Strip has warned the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) against recognising Israel.

The largely secular underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip have urged the PLO to launch such a political initiative to win international support for the revolt.

Yassin has heavily criticised the PLO leadership in the past but his latest remarks were some of the harshest.

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Qadhafi accuses own committees of murder

TRIPOLI (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has accused his revolution, a unique blend of populist socialism and Islam.

Thousands of youths enlisted as members of the committees which had sweeping security and intelligence functions.

Qadhafi ordered the committees to restrict their operations in future to neighbourhood "people's congresses" and indicated their days were numbered.

"We want the next phase to be one in which the masses themselves not the revolutionary committees confront the enemies," he said.

The committees would disappear totally when they were no longer needed to guide the masses, he added.

Diplomats said public discontent had risen last year because of harassment by the committees, economic austerity, and an unpopular war with southern neighbours.

Qadhafi formed the committees in 1977 to defend and lead

bour Chad.

Libya's General People's Congress (GPC) or parliament passed a human rights charter in June guaranteeing freedom of expression and denouncing the use of violence.

In what diplomats said was a move to shore up popular support, Qadhafi in March bulldozed a prison and freed its inmates, some of whom were believed to be political prisoners.

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U.S. leading economic indicators fall in July

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The government said Tuesday that its chief forecasting gauge of future economic activity dropped 0.8 per cent in July, the sharpest decline in eight months.

Economists said the fall in the Commerce Department's index of leading economic indicators may be a signal of a pause in what has been booming economic growth this year. But they cautioned against reading too much into a single month's figures.

The July decline was the biggest since last November, when the index dropped 1.0 per cent in the wake of the October stock market crash.

The latest drop was likely to be seen as good news by the stock and bond markets, which have faltered in recent weeks on fears that inflation is heating up.

But the dip follows a 1.4 per

inflation under control.

The Fed has been pushing up short-term interest rates since late March in an attempt to slow growth to a sustainable, non-inflationary pace. On Aug. 9, it took its most dramatic inflation-fighting move by raising the discount rate, its key bank lending rate, by a half percentage point.

Since then, analysts have been watching government economic statistics closely for indications of whether the Fed has tightened enough.

The government said last week that the U.S. economy, as measured by the gross national product, grew at an annual rate of 3.3 per cent in the April-June quarter, following a 3.4 per cent expansion pace in the first three months of the year.

This strong growth has raised concern at the Federal Reserve Board, the U.S. central bank, which is charged with keeping

the biggest jump in the index in June, the biggest increase in 18 months. The Commerce Department revised its estimate for May, calculating now that the indicators were off by 0.7 per cent instead of the previously reported 0.8 per cent.

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But the dip follows a 1.4 per

Cypriots wonder if economic miracle can benefit all

By Katherine McElroy
Reuter

NICOSIA — South of the green line dividing Nicosia, glass-sided office towers, shopping centres and apartment blocks are springing up.

On the other side of the United Nations-patrolled buffer zone, the capital is shabbier and visibly less prosperous.

The city reflects the economic gulf between Turkish-Cypriot north Cyprus and Greek-Cypriot south as the two sides prepare for talks in September on reunifying the island.

Any successful solution seems to hinge on the south's "economic miracle" working its way north.

Economists estimate Turkish-Cypriot per capita income in the breakaway state at about a third of the south's \$6,800.

"Turkish Cypriots have shown good growth rates in the last two years due to favourable external factors. But their market is too small and their economic policies are constraining them," one Greek-Cypriot economist said.

"If the favourable climate is maintained, the potential exists for further development. But they are unlikely to close the gap since the south is expanding rapidly," he added.

The Turkish-Cypriot economy, in which the Turkish lira is used, struggled with high inflation imported from Turkey and a shortage of foreign exchange. Turkey keeps it afloat with aid.

Annual inflation in the north is running at around 75 per cent compared with 3.4 per cent in the south, the economist said. He said investments in the north tended to be speculative and not conducive to long-term development.

Some 200,000 Greek Cypriots fled south in 1974 when the Turkish army occupied the north after a brief coup in Nicosia promoted by the Greek junta of the day. Foreign experts describe the recovery since then as an economic miracle.

Tourism, the main industry, is booming. The number of long-stay visitors rose to 608,000 in the first half of this year, 17.5 per cent up on the same period in 1987.

In 1983 Turkish-Cypriots declared the Turkish republic of northern Cyprus but only Ankara recognises it.

In Geneva Aug. 24 Cyprus President George Vassiliou and Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash agreed to start talks on setting up a federal republic. Under any agreement, each side would run many of its affairs independently and the extent of possible future economic integration is unclear.

Mustafa Akinci, mayor of Nicosia's Turkish sector and leader of the north's opposition communal Liberation Party, told Reuters: "I see it (economic integration) as a necessity to make a federal republic survive. The inequality or the imbalance of both sides will be the main obstacle for the future."

Vassiliou confident
Vassiliou, a self-made millionaire, says Turkish Cypriots will catch up economically under a federation.

"I can guarantee that in less than five years... the standard of living of the Turkish Cypriots will be several times higher," he told northern reporters before leaving for Geneva for his meeting with Denktash in August.

But some Turkish Cypriots are sceptical.

"Turkey has for years handed out her money and it has not been enough for us. Will this (Vassiliou's) be enough?" one news-

paper asked.

Greek-Cypriot economist Costas Apostolides, writing in the Cyprus Mail, called this type of thinking the "aid syndrome." He urged that aid be used to finance productive investments.

The search for profit and higher wages, as well as new economic opportunities after a political solution, would raise Turkish-Cypriot living standards, he added.

Greek Cypriots say they have succeeded despite losing 38 per cent of the island, including the most productive sections.

The Turkish Cypriots, 19 per cent of the total population of almost 700,000, say they have suffered from a lack of diplomatic recognition and no economic embargo promoted by Greek Cypriots.

Apostolides blamed economic policies more and said there was effectively no ban on trade. He quoted Turkish Cypriots as saying they had trading links with over 60 countries.

Issue of settlers

He said the arrival in the north of thousands of Turkish settlers from the mainland caused economic problems since they had lower productivity rates.

Ozger Ozgur, leader of the north's main opposition Republican Turkish Party, estimated the number of settlers at between 45,000 and 50,000.

He told Reuters recently they were causing problems by changing the demography of the community and upsetting the wage system because they worked for very little.

After a settlement those who had married Turkish Cypriots might be allowed to stay under international law, he said. But he thought Turkey would be persuaded to withdraw the rest.

"When there is a solution, the legal tender will be the Cyprus pound, no doubt, and we shall have a more stable currency with stable prices," he said.

"Wages will go up and come to the level of wages in the south and the Turkish-Cypriot working people including the farmers will benefit from this," Ozgur said.

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Deadline for insurance firms to abide by new rules expires

AMMAN (J.T.) — A deadline fixed by the Ministry of Industry and Trade for insurance companies to abide by a set of new regulations expires Wednesday and the ministry intends to cancel the licences issued to those which fail to meet the deadline, a ministry statement said Tuesday.

The ministry had requested all insurance companies operating in the Kingdom to submit statements about their accounts between Sept. 1, 1987 and the end of August 1988 and that these statements should be sent in to

the ministry by Sept. 15, 1988.

The ministry's regulations also stipulate that every insurance company should collect by Aug. 31, 1988, annual premiums equal to five times the company's deposit with the Ministry of Industry and Trade except for those companies that are in the process of merger.

Last April, a report in the local press said that insurance companies operating in Jordan collected a total of JD 55,456,000 in premiums during 1986 and 1987 and paid compensation totalling JD 12,573,000 to beneficiaries during the period.

Tarawneh outlines tax exemptions

AMMAN — During the fourth Jordanian expatriate conference, Salman Al Tarawneh, director of the Income Tax Department, delivered a speech in which he welcomed the expatriates and explained the incentives provided by the tax law as well as other Jordanian laws. Following is a summary of the incentives that were explained by the director:

— Income derived from agriculture, afforestation or from cattle, poultry, fish or bee breeding including income from simple production of these products is totally exempted from tax.

— Capital gains are totally exempted from tax. Capital gains comprise profits derived from sale and purchase of real estate,

shares and bonds.

— Thirty per cent of rental income derived from renting real estate within the capital district and 50 per cent of rental income in other areas is tax exempt.

— Dividends distributed by companies, interest on treasury bills, interest on deposits at banks and financial companies and income from saving plans, pension salaries and social security are all exempted from tax.

— Income derived from a concession granted by the government is tax exempt.

— Income expressly exempted by the Encouragement of Investment Law and bilateral or multilateral investment encouragement agreements concluded by

the government is tax exempt.

— Exemptions that are granted by Law No. 34 from 1980 Industrial Estates Corporation Law. Industrial projects established in an industrial estate enjoy a two-year tax holiday including social welfare tax from the start of production date.

In his speech Tarawneh reminded the audience that Jordanian laws and regulations deal with Arab and foreign capital similarly to the Jordanian capital.

The Income Tax Department's participation in the conference underlined the general attention given to the expatriates to urge them to invest in their home country, Jordan — Dajani and Aladdin Tax Brief.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

| Tuesday rates: Local sell/buy rates in fils | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| Belgian franc (for 10) | 95.30 | 96.20 |
| Danish guinea | 176.60 | 178.40 |
| French franc | 58.50 | 59.40 |
| Italian lira (for 100) | 26.90 | 27.20 |
| Japanese yen (for 100) | 278.10 | 280.90 |
| Swedish krona | 57.80 | 58.40 |
| U.S. dollar | 630.20 | 636.50 |
| Deutschmark | 199.50 | 201.50 |
| Saudi riyal | 104.00 | 106.00 |
| Syrian lira (for JD 11) | 96.00 | 100.00 |
| Lebanese lira (for JD 11) | 340.00 | 350.00 |
| Iraqi dinar | 1370.00 | 1390.00 |
| Egyptian pound | 168.00 | 172.00 |
| Qatar riyal | 106.50 | 107.50 |
| UAE dirham | 106.00 | 107.00 |
| Qatari riyal | 101.00 | 102.00 |
| Bahraini dinar | 1030.00 | 1040.00 |

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for August 30, 1988.

| | Number | Volume | Contracts |
|----------------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| Regular market: | 619603 | JD 409652 | 596 |
| Top three companies: | 152500 | JD 31430 | 49 |
| Jordan Brick and Lime | 96487 | JD 29650 | 67 |
| Darco for Investment and Housing | 47301 | JD 27406 | 73 |
| Finance and Credit | 302 | JD 1066 | — |
| Parallel market: | 246 | JD 876956 | — |
| Development bonds: | — | — | — |
| Treasury bills & bonds: | — | — | — |
| Other debentures: | — | — | — |

JORDAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Ministry of Industry and Trade | 663191 | Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation | 603007 |
| Ministry of Supply | 602121 | Free Zone Corporation | 642001 |
| Ministry of Finance | 636321 | Amman Financial Market | 660170 |
| Ministry of Planning | 643196 | Amman Chamber of Commerce | |

Warsaw ready for talks with Walesa

WARSAW (R) — The Polish government said Tuesday it was ready to include Solidarity leader Lech Walesa in talks on Poland's future as soon as he left a strike-bound Gdansk shipyard and the strike was called off.

"The ending of the strike by Lech Walesa and the (Lenin) shipyard would automatically mean convening round-table talks," government spokesman Jerzy Urban said.

Walesa's presence at the talks would indicate that he represented a mass movement, Urban added. The authorities have dismissed him as a non-person since they outlawed the Solidarity free trade union in 1982.

Round-table talks with the opposition were proposed last Friday by Interior Minister General Czeslaw Kiszcak. The proposal was approved at the weekend by the Communist Party's policy-making central committee.

"One may expect that Lech Walesa will be among those sitting down to the round table," Urban said in reply to a question at his weekly news conference.

Kiszcak said the talks would be without preconditions. Participants could include all sides except for those who "rejected the constitutional order of Poland," he said.

Urban's announcement came at the start of the third week of Poland's worst wave of labour

"As far as the order and scope of the talks are concerned, this is open to agreement by the participants in the discussions," he said.

General Kiszcak, a close confidant of Jaruzelski, has been designated by the authorities to lead the government team at the talks. He is a member of the Communist Party Politburo, the Central Committee and the government.

"He is a very good and very effective negotiator," Urban said.

Representatives of the official, Communist-led Opzz Trade Union Federation would attend the talks. Urban added. However, preliminary discussions would be held with the opposition to decide on the choice of other participants.

Walesa was inside the Lenin shipyard and journalists were unable to reach him immediately for his response to Urban's statement.

Strikes have subsided in the past week but stoppages are still underway at one coalmine, a southern steel mill, a Szczecin bus depot and three Gdansk shipyards.

Walesa told journalists Monday he was ready to join talks with the authorities unconditionally as soon as they indicated readiness to discuss recognizing Solidarity.

Asked whether this could be discussed at the round table Urban said there were no pre-conditions and the agenda would be open.

Military chiefs expected to name Pinochet for Chile poll

SANTIAGO (R) — President Augusto Pinochet, Chile's absolute ruler for the past 15 years, was expected to be named by his fellow military chiefs Tuesday as the sole candidate in the upcoming presidential election.

The 72-year-old general, already in power longer than any leader since Chile's independence in 1818, could extend his rule a further eight years if he wins the single-candidate "yes" or "no" election in early October.

Some 20 women were arrested Monday during an anti-Pinochet demonstration in central Santiago and opposition groups called more protests.

Pinochet, who holds the posts of army commander and president, will join the chiefs of the navy, air force and militarised police at midday to formally

select the candidate. Few doubt Pinochet will be the choice to be announced in the early evening.

"The artificially solemn climate (which surrounds) the act is totally senseless, it is more suitable to an operetta," said Socialist leader Ricardo Lagos.

A spokesman for 16 opposition parties united in a campaign to defeat the government candidate, urged the military Monday to reconsider.

"They have to (choose) between the path of peace and understanding that the great majority want... or the logic of war that Pinochet represents," said Patricio Aylwin, president of the centrist Christian Democratic Party.

Local Roman Catholic church leaders have also called on the government to negotiate with

their political opponents on a consensus candidate.

Although other military chiefs previously said they preferred a civilian candidate, Pinochet enjoys the unbounding support of the army, by far the strongest branch of the armed forces.

The only question apparently remaining was whether Pinochet will stand down from the army command prior to the poll, as some supporters want, or delay a decision until after the October voting.

Pinochet took power in a bloody 1973 coup in which the elected Marxist President Salvador Allende died. Thousands were killed, imprisoned or sent into exile.

The military has been criticised abroad over persistent allegations of human rights abuses



An elderly Buddhist monk addresses a group of demonstrators near Rangoon's Shwedagon pagoda complex

Burma alliance plans democracy strategy

RANGOON (R) — A new self-proclaimed alliance of Burmese elder statesmen met Tuesday to map out a strategy to guide their impoverished nation away from political and social turmoil to a multi-party democracy.

The 21-member Alliance for Democracy and Peace, which includes a former president, prime minister and defence minister, has sought to seize the initiative in a power vacuum caused by the retreat of the Socialist Party after 26 years of rule.

Prominent members of the alliance, including Tin Oo, who was sacked as defence minister and jailed in 1976 after being named in a plot against Socialist leader Ne Win, have called for an interim government to lead the country away from single party rule.

Scattered anti-government demonstrations, dampened by torrential rains, continued Tuesday.

Protesters demanded the immediate fall of the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) and its chairman Maung Maung, the third leader in a month of national

al insurrection in which the security forces shot dead thousands of demonstrators, according to diplomats.

Diplomats said Tin Oo, 72, emerged as a key figure in the alliance, whose patron is U Nu, the prime minister overthrown by Ne Win's 1962 coup. U Nu was exiled but returned under an amnesty in 1980 following an unsuccessful attempt to mount an armed revolt against Ne Win.

They said students, who have spearheaded the mass demonstrations and who declared a national student federation Sunday, took part in initiating the alliance.

One Western ambassador called the formation of the alliance and student federation a major step. "People are now looking at what they have to do. That is a big change from a week ago," he said.

Maung Maung has called an emergency party congress Sept. 12 and said he and the entire BSPP leadership will resign if it does not agree to a referendum on ending 26 years of one-party rule.

Ortega extends ceasefire

MANAGUA (AP) — President Daniel Ortega Monday extended a five-month ceasefire with contra rebels until the end of September.

The leftist Sandinista president also called on the presidents of El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras to renew talks to fulfill a regional peace plan. They last met in January.

The Nicaraguan government extends until Sept. 30 the halt to offensive military operations... so the rebels can put down their arms and accept amnesty," Ortega said during a speech to a group of international Indian leaders gathered in Managua.

The Sandinistas and U.S.-backed contras first agreed to stop offensive military operations March 21. Two days later they signed a pact agreeing to negotiate a peaceful settlement of their seven-year-old war.

The two sides stand far apart on ways to end the war. The pact calls for the contras to lay down their arms in exchange for democratic measures, but they cannot agree on how that should take place.

"Our arms are our only hope, for democracy," rebel leader Enrique Bermudez said recently.

Bermudez opposed the pact and would not sign it with other civilian and military leaders.

Manneken Pis answers nature's call for 600 years

By Robert J. Wielaard
Associated Press

neken Pis coasters. Manneken Pis bottle openers. Manneken Pis commemorative plates. Manneken Pis cork screws. Manneken Pis T-shirts and — get this, party animals — life-size Manneken Pis statues that squirt wine or beer.

One has it that a toddler saved Brussels from a blaze in the 13th century by urinating on the lit fuse of an incendiary bomb.

Another tells of an 1142 battle in which the Duke of Lorraine's troops fell back against mutinous soldiers.

Few statues can boast a history as checkered as that of the Manneken. "Documents at city hall dating back to 1388 refer to the 30 public fountains which then provided potable water to the citizens of Brussels," said Demol.

"They mention a water pipe feeding the Manneken that pisses."

In the 14th century such imagery was considered solid, folksy fun.

Other curious fountains from those days still exist nearby. "The Three Virgins" spout water from their breasts. And "The Spitter," is a man with

water cascading from his mouth.

But who is the Manneken? "His origins are rooted in many legends, some historically more correct than others," said Demol.

One has it that a toddler saved Brussels from a blaze in the 13th century by urinating on the lit fuse of an incendiary bomb.

Another tells of an 1142 battle in which the Duke of Lorraine's troops fell back against mutinous soldiers.

The duke, only an infant, then rose in his cradle that had been suspended from an oak tree and began to pee and so changed his troops' fortunes.

Another legend says an urchin relieved himself against the door of a sorceress who condemned the boy to that same fate forever.

Usually, the Manneken piddles in the buff. But you may also catch him in one of 447 costumes that have been bestowed upon him in the past 300 years.

The culprits got off with a warning. Antoine Lucas was

not so lucky in 1817. He yanked the statue off its base and got 20 years of hard labour.

Demol's 33-year-old order promotes Manneken Pis as Brussels' "goodwill ambassador."

"No one ever complains that the statue is obscene," he said. "And, of course, it isn't."

"The kid is only five. He cannot be obscene. You must understand that to the citizens of Brussels, Manneken Pis symbolises resistance to fanaticism, simple civil disobedience."

A special treat awaits visitors during the two-day festivities around Manneken Pis.

"Several times during those two days," said Demol, "Manneken Pis will serve wine to passersby in his own peculiar way."

If that upsets sensitive souls, they can go around the corner to the city museum on the nearby grand' place, Brussels' neo-Gothic central square. There, 100 of the Manneken's costumes rotate on permanent exhibit.

U.N. urges states to ban child porn

GENEVA (R) — A United Nations panel urged states Monday to make child pornography a crime after hearing complaints that sexual abuse of children was increasing around the world.

A five-member working group on contemporary forms of slavery released a report saying private groups had cited allegations of abuse in Belgium, Britain, France, Japan and the Ivory Coast.

The 37-page document quoted the Paris-based International Abolitionist Federation as telling the panel that there was a general increase in child pornography, child prostitution and sexual abuse of children.

This was caused by moral degradation of society, poverty, break-up of families, and parents abandoning children, said the Federation, founded in 1875 to combat prostitution.

The report said U.N. member states should pass laws, "where they have not already done so, making it a crime to produce, distribute or possess pornographic material involving children."

The International Abolitionist

Federation told the panel there had been a big increase in reports of child abuse in Britain, and it said French authorities were lax in dealing with violators of children.

The federation also cited Belgian newspaper reports that about 1,600 young people in Brussels were affected by abuse. But a Belgian government observer said only 50 cases of minors working as prostitutes had been reported to the authorities.

The Federation said local customs were among factors leading young Ivory Coast children to become prostitutes. Along with an international Catholic group, Pax Romana, the Federation said

Filipino girls as young as 14 turned prostitutes in Japan after being lured there by false promises of legitimate work.

The panel said the London-based Anti-Slavery Society had informed it of reports alleging that babies were being kidnapped in Thailand and smuggled to Malaysia. Police had arrested some 60 kidnappers, but no Thai government agency seemed to be charged with ending the trafficking, the reports said.

Post: Cockroach story won't die

JERUSALEM (R) — The Jerusalem Post said Monday it would not retract a news story about an Israeli housewife's battle with a cockroach which landed her husband in hospital, despite questions about its authenticity. Foreign news agencies, which quoted the newspaper last Thursday, challenged the report after suggesting that it sounded remarkably similar to stories which had been previously published elsewhere. The item said a frightened

newspaper last Thursday, quoted the Paris-based International Abolitionist Federation as telling the panel that there was a general increase in child pornography, child prostitution and sexual abuse of children.

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The International Abolitionist

Federation still have to decide when some of those who will be treated in the United States can leave," Shaw said.

Shaw said the 12 in the Landstuhl hospital, located about 15 kilometres from Ramstein, included several children and a number of other civilians as well as military personnel.

All were suffering from "severe burns," said Shaw.

"Some are critical," she added. The specialists may also visit Americans in several other large civilian hospitals in neighbouring towns, including Kaiserslautern.

Of the 345 people hospitalised from the Ramstein disaster, there was no official tally of nationalities. Most of those attending the ill-fated air show in southwestern Germany were West Germans and Americans.

West German newspapers gave prominent coverage to the orders from Defence Minister Rupert Scholz in Bonn, temporarily banning military air shows and banning German military participation in stunt flying.

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U.S. Assistant Prosecutor Alice Hall said.

Stars warn against drinking, driving

LOS ANGELES (R) — A so-called "telephone handset" was alleged Monday to have robbed box offices of nearly one million dollars in coins. James Clark, 48, a fugitive since an arrest warrant was issued at Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, in November 1985, was arrested by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents in Los Angeles during the weekend. A federal magistrate Monday ordered that he be held without bail. Clark is charged with receiving stolen property, a device which allowed him to empty telephone boxes of nearly \$1 million.

U.S. Assistant Prosecutor Alice Hall said.

British fans mark Jackson's birthday

LOS ANGELES (AP) — More than 90,000 British fans joined in a 30th birthday salute to pop music star Michael Jackson, who spurns such anniversaries but graciously acknowledged the fans' spontaneous gesture. He doesn't celebrate birthdays, but more than 90,000 people rose to the occasion tonight (Monday night) and sang "Happy Birthday" to him," tour spokesman Bob Jones said Monday in a telephone interview from backstage at Roundhay Park in Leeds, England. "Of course, he was forced to acknowledge it."

Fred MacMurray turns 80

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Fred MacMurray, recovering from a stroke, celebrates his 80th birthday with a small, private party held at his Brentwood home by his wife of 34 years, former actress June Haver. "If life begins at 40, he's only 40," his wife said by telephone. "He's very happy to be 80 years old. Many of his friends are older, you know. He looks at George Burns (92) and Bob Hope (85) and he says, 'gee, I feel like a kid.' Among his most popular films were "Double Indemnity," "The Shaggy Dog," "The Absent-Minded Professor," "The Caine Mutiny," "Miracle on the Bells" and "Fair Wind to Java." He also played a widower in the television series "My Three Sons" from 1960 to 1972.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

5 killed, 52 hurt in Austria crash

VIENNA (AP) — Five people were killed and 52 injured when two trains crashed head-on in western Austria less than five kilometres from the West German border, Austrian railroad and rescue officials said. The accident was probably due to human error, Heinrich Uehlein, general director of the Austrian Railroad Authority, said on Austrian television.

Seoul apologises to journalist

SEOUL (R) — South Korea dismissed its army intelligence chief and charged two generals in connection with an attack on a journalist who criticised the military, the defence ministry said Tuesday. A four-man military squad led by a major was arrested last week for a knife attack on Oh Hong-Kuen, city editor of the Joongang Economic Daily, who wrote an article criticising the army as the source of many national problems.

Natal fighting kills 6